

**AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

**In the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preserving transient data of a telecommunications switch, the method comprising:

increasing the size of a communications buffer that is associated with establishing a communications link with the switch to a predetermined buffer size, the communications buffer being a buffer associated with logic to establish a telnet session;

establishing the communications link with the switch;

without user intervention, executing in batch a plurality of data-request commands, including referencing a first file that includes the plurality of data-request commands, the data-request commands including commands to retrieve operational-measurement data from the switch;

receiving a plurality of information sets in response to the plurality of the data-request commands; and

automatically parsing the plurality of information sets to produce an output file, the output file including at least a portion of data from the plurality of information sets, ~~wherein~~ the portion of data ~~is~~ being arranged in a format that includes a plurality of rows that respectively correspond to the portions of data, wherein automatically parsing the data sets includes:

identifying a first pattern of data within one of the data sets;

retrieving a data value based on the pattern;

iteratively identifying successive patterns of data within the data sets;

iteratively retrieving respective data values based on the pattern; and

communicating the data values to the output file.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined buffer size is set according to the number of the plurality of data-request commands.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1[[5]], wherein the operational-measurement data include one or more selections from the following:

usage data related to one or more trunk groups;

a count of incoming calls;

a indication of call volume;

an indicating of data capacity;

a count of incoming-call attempts;

a count of call overflows;

a count of glare instances;

a count of trunks operating;

a count of incoming call failures;

a count of outbound failures; and

traffic-flow metrics.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media having computer program instructions embodied thereon that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

establish a communications link with a network element;

reference an input file that includes a plurality of data-request commands;

automatically execute the plurality of data-request commands at the network element;

generate an intermediary file that includes raw data returned incident to automatically executing the plurality of data-request commands; and

without user intervention;

parse the raw data, wherein parsing the raw data causes the processor to:

identify a first pattern of data within the raw data;

retrieve a data value based on the pattern;

iteratively identify successive patterns of data within the raw data;

iteratively retrieve respective data values based on the pattern; and

communicate the data values to the output file; and

generate an immediately accessible output file that includes all or a portion of the raw data in a prescribed format, the prescribed format including a plurality of rows that respectively correspond to the all or portion of the raw data.

9. (Previously presented) The media of claim 8, wherein the computer program instructions that cause the processor to establish a communications link with a network element further cause the processor to modify the size of a communications buffer to a size that will prevent overflows when receiving data from said network element.

10. (Original) The media of claim 9, wherein said size of said communications buffer is proportional to the number of said plurality of data-request commands.

11. (Currently Amended) The media of claim 10, wherein said size of said communications buffer is approximately 500 kb per data-request command.

12. (Original) The media of claim 9, wherein said data-request commands include operational-measurement commands.

13. (Previously presented) The media of claim 12, wherein the computer program instructions further cause the processor to present said output file on an output device, including a display device or hardcopy device.

14. (Previously presented) The media of claim 13, wherein the computer program instructions that cause the processor to present said output file further cause the processor to import said output file in a spreadsheet program.

15. (Previously presented) The media of claim 13, wherein the computer program instructions that cause the processor to present said output file further cause the processor to present said raw data in a graphical format.

16. (Previously presented) The media of claim 15, wherein the computer program instructions that cause the processor to present said output file further cause the processor to present said raw data in a Web-based format.

17. (Original) A computer-implemented method for troubleshooting a communications network, the method comprising:

manipulating a size of a communications buffer that will be used to receive data from a network element;

automatically retrieving transient data from the network element by issuing a plurality of data-request commands; and

without user intervention, storing the transient data in a format having a plurality of rows, each of the plurality of rows corresponds to a data set returned from a respective data-request command, storing the transient data further includes:

identifying a first pattern of data within the data set;

retrieving a data value based on the pattern;

iteratively identifying successive patterns of data within the data set;

iteratively retrieving respective data values based on the pattern; and

storing the data.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein manipulating a size of a communications buffer includes sizing said buffer according to the amount of transient data to be received from said network element.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the data-request commands include commands to retrieve operational-measurement data.

20. (Withdrawn) A computer-implemented method for preserving temporary data of a network element in a communications network, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of data-request commands to successively extract data sets from the network element;

sizing a buffer to be used to receive the successively extracted data sets to a value equal to approximately 1 Mb per data-request command;

establishing a communications link with the network element;

submitting the plurality of data-request commands in batch;

receiving the data sets; and

formatting the data sets in a matrix format.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said data-request commands retrieve operational measurement data from said network element.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein formatting the data sets includes depicting said data sets in a graphical format.

23. (Withdrawn) A system for identifying problems in a communications network, the system comprising:

one or more memory components;

a set of computer-useable instructions to be received by the one or more memory components that, when executed:

(1) establish a communications link with a network element;

(2) extract transient data from the network element; and

(3) formats the extracted data according to a predefined format.